

Board of Health
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Penn Room

Members Attending: E. Kimball, J. Webb, J. Wong

Others Attending: D. D'Auria, J. Conrad, P. Hatt, M. Loaiza, E. Overly

Call to Order

Dr. Kimball called the Board of Health meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Kimball called the Board's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the March 2nd, 2011 and the November 2nd, 2011 meetings.

Mr. Webb moved, seconded by Dr. Kimball, to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Health Officer's Report

Erin Overly, Chief Clerk in the Property Maintenance Division, provided the following update to the Board:

- Five (5) Health Inspections are occurring each working day
- Approximately twelve (12) Handicapped Parking spaces were reviewed and approved
- As of November 28th, nine (9) lead inspections were performed
- Fifteen (15) non-compliant (not cleared for lead abatement and cited) to be cleared
- Make-up day for flu shots was November 15th and the City is now looking to donate the remaining vaccines
- Letter regarding implementation of Commercial Laundry Code have recently been mailed

Ms. Overly explained the legal process that occurs for lead infested homes.

Dr. Kimball inquired how long the problem with the non-compliant properties has existed. Ms. Overly directed Dr. Kimball to the list provided within the agenda packet.

Mr. Webb asked Ms. Overly how many chances the owner gets before the City goes in to abate the property. Ms. Overly was not sure on the specifics of the process the Lead Prevention Program takes prior to City involvement. She stated that she would contact Ms. Lisa Ulsh, who prepares the report.

Dr. Wong inquired how the addresses on the list are obtained. Ms. Overly stated that they are obtained by complaint or the nurse receives information on a child with an elevated lead level.

Dr. Kimball asked if it would be beneficial for the Board of Health to be involved in lead issues and/or strategy. Ms. Overly stated that she would need to inquire with the Codes Manager, Ron Natale.

Ms. Hatt expressed her belief that in her experience, presence is always beneficial. Dr. Kimball agreed and stated that she believes the issue is getting worse.

Mr. Webb stated that if there is a way to identify whether a landlord owns multiple properties then it can be used to see if properties with lead issues have the same owner.

Dr. Kimball inquired what the Laundromat Ordinance entailed. Ms. Overly stated that the implementation of this ordinance would include looking at what the annual health license requires, which is sufficient receptacles, cleaning of establishment and actual machines, and cleaning log.

Dr. Kimball requested a copy of the ordinance. Ms. Loaiza stated she would provide her with a copy before the next meeting.

Dr. Kimball asked Ms. Overly if Dr. Hassle, the City's Health Officer, had any suggestions per his letter to the Board about the bedbug issue in the City. Ms. Overly stated that outside the letter she has not received anything additional.

Dr. Kimball requested that Ms. Overly ask Dr. Hassle for any suggestions and to have them submitted to the Board in writing. Ms. Overly agreed.

Mr. Webb inquired how a bedbug dies. Ms. Loaiza and Ms. Overly explained that it dies by extreme heat.

City Emergency Plan

Mr. James Conrad, Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services, explained that the City has a general Emergency Plan with the County. He described the City's Emergency Plan that is currently in place for flooding and snow emergencies.

Mr. Conrad explained in his effort to communicate the Emergency Plan to citizens, he will attend community group meetings.

Dr. Kimball inquired if the electric company has any way of notifying the City of homes without service, after the issues that occurred during the snowstorm in October. Mr. Conrad stated that many refuse to leave their home after loss of service and there is no way of restoring service due to the damage of the lines.

Mr. Webb inquired if there is a registry for individuals in need of service for medical reasons. Mr. Conrad replied affirmatively. Dr. Kimball explained the complications with access to registries like this and HIPAA guidelines.

Dr. Kimball suggested the various methods of reaching the public via BCTV and mailings. Ms. Overly suggested coordinating with Meals on Wheels. Ms. Hatt added that Home Health Services could also be an outlet to reach the community and those that have medical issues.

Mr. Webb suggested contacting the Food Banks throughout the City and inquire if a flyer can be placed in the bags of groceries.

Mr. Conrad explained that preparation is important but the legalities also have to be considered. He stated that all avenues possible are being considered and used to inform citizens.

Dr. Kimball stated that she would be willing to help Mr. Conrad as needed.

Mr. Conrad thanked the Board for all their suggestions. He stated that he is walking away with new ideas due to their input and appreciates their help. He stated that his email is James.Conrad@readingpa.org if anyone needed to reach him.

Dr. Kimball went on to thanked Mr. Conrad, on behalf of the Board, for all he does.

Tattoo Parlor Ordinance

Ms. D'Auria suggested that after hearing Ms. Overly explain the Laundromat Ordinance, the Board may want to model the Tattoo Ordinance after the Laundromat License Model.

Ms. Overly agreed with the suggestion although manpower would have to be considered.

Ms. D'Auria explained the difference between permits and licenses. She stated that Lancaster has a separate Board to handle the permits and licenses for tattoo parlors and she wasn't sure if the Board of Health could do this. She also was unsure if there are qualified people interested or capable to administer and grade the exam that needs to be given.

Dr. Kimball described the expense with licensing versus permits. Ms. D'Auria replied that the permit is limited in what it covers versus the license.

Dr. Wong expressed his concern with fluids (i.e., blood-born pathogens).

Ms. D'Auria stated that she will look further into Lancaster's license requirements and process. She added that she will contact Ms. Overly to work on the ordinance.

Member Update

Ms. Loaiza announced to the Board that elections are going to be held during the January meeting.

Ms. Hatt stated that she is assisting in the recruitment of new members. Ms. Loaiza provided Ms. Hatt with applications to distribute and stated that the applications can be mailed or dropped off in the City Council office (Rm 2-24).

Other

Dr. Kimball stated that she did a walk through of Bernhart Park with Deb Hoag from Public Works. She stated that she is currently working on a powerpoint presentation of the pictures taken during this walk through.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11th at 6pm in the Penn Room.

*Respectfully submitted by Maritza Loaiza,
Administrative Assistant to City Clerk*